

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00659 022336Z

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9856

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 0659

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, GT

SUBJ: OAS REFORM - COUNTRY REVIEW PROCESS

REF: STATE 02265

1. EMBASSY/USAID REGARDS COUNTRY REVIEW PROCESS, NOW INSTITUTED IN CEPICIES, A VERY USEFUL MECHANISM FOR AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF HOW A COUNTRY HAS CONTENDED WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WHERE DEVELOPMENTALLY IT STANDS NOW AND HOW IT MIGHT IMPROVE ITS ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT. THE NUMBER OF AGENCIES INVOLVED AND THE ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS THAT ARE PARAMOUNT ARE FACTORS WHICH RENDER THE PROCESS A REVEALING AND INFLUENTIAL ONE.

2. ON THE BASIS OF THE MOST RECENT CEPICIES REPORT ON GUATEMALA, WE DO NOT SEE ANY REASON TO RECOMMEND THAT THE FUNCTION BE REMOVED FROM OAS. IN THE INTERESTS OF MAKING THAT ORGANIZATION A LEANER AND TIGHTER ONE, HOWEVER, WE CAN SEE VALUE IN TRANSFERRING THE FUNCTION TO THE IDB, AS SUGGESTED IN ALTERNATIVE 2 IN REFTTEL. THE IDB VENUE FOR THE COUNTRY REVIEW PROCESS WOULD SEEM TO US TO BE ONE CAPABLE OF HANDLING IT AND ONE THAT WOULD INSURE THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF PURELY OBJECTIVE AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS TO THE STUDY AT HAND. WE ALSO THINK THAT THE IDB MIGHT PROVIDE A HIGHER LEVEL OF ECONOMIC COMPETENCE THAN OAS IN THE BASIC WORK GOING INTO A COUNTRY REVIEW.

ANDREWS

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